

ABSTRACT

VIRAL PREPARATIONS, VECTORS, IMMUNOGENS, AND VACCINES

- 5 A genetically disabled mutant virus has a genome which is defective in
respect of a selected gene that is essential for the production of
infectious new virus particles, and which carries heterologous genetic
material encoding an immunomodulatory protein such as GM-CSF, IL-2, or
others, such that the mutant virus can infect normal host cells and
10 cause expression of immunomodulatory protein, but the mutant virus
cannot cause production of infectious new virus particles except when
the virus infects recombinant complementing host cells expressing a
gene that provides the function of the essential viral gene; the site
of insertion of the heterologous genetic material encoding the
15 immunomodulatory protein preferably being at the site of the defect in
the selected essential viral gene. Uses include prophylactic and
therapeutic use in generating an immune response in a subject treated
therewith; use in the preparation of an immunogen such as a vaccine for
use in tumour therapy; use in the in-vitro expansion of (e.g. virus-
20 specific) cytotoxic T cells; and therapeutic or prophylactic use in
corrective gene therapy.

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